

REMARKS

Claims 26-65 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. The Office Action set forth a restriction requirement requiring applicant to elect one of the following groups of claims for prosecution on the merits:

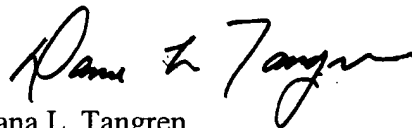
- Group I: Claims 26-60; and
- Group II: Claims 61-65

Applicant hereby elects without traverse Group I containing claims 26-60 for prosecution on the merits. As such, claims 61-65 have been cancelled herein.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and allowance of claims 26-60 as currently pending in the present application. Should the Examiner find any impediment to allowance of the claims which could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Dated this 3rd day of September 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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